

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 06047 120143Z

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN BONN

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 06047

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: MORGAN ABDUCTION

1. YOU SHOULD SEE THAT FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ME IS
DELIVERED WITH UTMOST URGENCY TO KING KHALID.

BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR MAJESTY:

AS YOU KNOW, AN OFFICER OF THE U.S. ARMY, COLONEL ERNEST
R. MORGAN, WAS ABDUCTED IN BEIRUT ON JUNE 29 BY A GROUP
CALLING ITSELF THE "REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ACTION
ORGANIZATION." THIS GROUP HAS THREATENED TO EXECUTE
COLONEL MORGAN UNLESS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGREES TO
VARIOUS DEMANDS, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF A SUBSTANTIAL
RANSOM IN KIND. THE GROUP HAS THREATENED TO CARRY OUT
THIS EXECUTION BY 9:00 PM BEIRUT TIME ON SATURDAY
JULY 12 IF ITS DEMANDS ARE NOT MET.

REGARDING THE DEMAND FOR PAYMENT OF RANSOM, IT IS THE
FIRM POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT TO PAY RANSOM.
WE BELIEVE THAT GIVING IN TO SUCH PRESSURE WOULD
ENCOURAGE OTHER TERRORISTS TO INDULGE IN SIMILAR ACTS,
THUS ESCALATING THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND CREATING

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POTENTIALLY ENORMOUS NEW PROBLEMS. I BELIEVE YOU WILL

AGREE WITH OUT VIEW ON THIS POINT.

ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS, GIVEN THE LONG-STANDING VERY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND IN LIGHT OF THE REVERED POSITION OF LEADERSHIP WHICH YOU HOLD IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD, YOUR MAJESTY, I APPEAL TO YOU ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD AND MYSELF TO SEE WHETHER YOU COULD BE HELPFUL IN THE MATTER OF COLONEL MORGAN. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY HOW THE GROUP WHICH IS HOLDING HIM WOULD REACT TO AN APPEAL FROM YOU FOR HIS RELEASE UNHARMED. BUT I BELIEVE IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THEY WOULD GIVE HEED TO AN APPEAL FOR REASON AND SET COLONEL MORGAN FREE, IF SUCH AN APPEAL WERE MADE BY A PERSON HOLDING THE UNIQUE POSITION OF YOUR MAJESTY.

PRESIDENT FORD AND I TRUST THAT YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE VERY EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LEAD ME TO ADDRESS THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. ON BEHALF OF US BOTH I SEND YOU WARMEST GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR YOUR HEALTH AND ALL SUCCESS.

SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT

2. IN DELIVERY LETTER, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT KING KHALID IS THE ONLY CHIEF OF STATE TO WHOM USG IS ADDRESSING AN APPEAL ON THIS MATTER.
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, CAT-B, TERRORISTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SECTO06047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECRETARY BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750761/aaaacbyq.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORGAN ABDUCTION
TAGS: PINS, CASC, LE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MORGAN, ERNEST R), (KHALID)
To: SS JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006